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Connecticut Valley into New Hampshire, but has not been taken in eastern Massachusetts.

Ditmars in a paper on the snakes found in the vicinity of New York City (1896), reports the keeled green snake, *Opheodrys aestivus* as "quite common" in Plymouth, Litchfield Co., Connecticut. There is a specimen of this species in the Springfield (Mass.) Museum (No. 22), labeled "Springfield" and one in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences (No. 5695), marked "Massachusetts." The range of this snake in eastern United States is given "New Jersey to Florida, * * *."

It would seem, therefore, that the chain snake, yellow-bellied snake and brown snake were of doubtful occurrence in New England, while the keeled green snake, fox snake and pilot black snake occurred casually. New England also seems well out of the range of the striped lizard, which inhabits sandy situations farther south.

It is unfortunate that records based on insufficient or inaccurate observations find their way from time to time into faunal lists, even though reported by "observing gentlemen" with "quite a taste for natural history," as it is much easier to get them in than to get them out. Sight records with reptiles have less claim for recognition than with birds owing to the lesser difficulties which capturing the former entail. Fortunately the famous "Sea Serpent," *Scoliophis atlanticus*, a black snake with a diseased spine, has been, as Allen says, "satisfactorily disposed of."

Field work on these doubtful New England species is very much worth while and the writer would greatly appreciate any information from members collecting in this region.

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A SPADEFOOT IN SUMMER

On August 14, 1918, I captured a spadefoot (*Scaphiopus holbrookii holbrookii*) in the basement of my

house in Douglaston, Long Island, which is inside Greater New York. It was taken in a small cavity in the damp earth, which it had probably made, in a break in the concrete on a level with the floor. It was in excellent condition, and apparently it was fully grown. We had seen it hopping about at night several days previous to this, but we do not know how long it had been in the cellar, or how it got there.

For several weeks we kept it in a large box of earth. At night it was generally out on top and active, but in the day time it was usually underneath the soil. It would always dig in backwards, making good use of the horny processes or "spades" on the hindfeet. It was surprising how quickly it could burrow out of sight.

On the night of October 12, it sang a few times without being disturbed. How these notes would compare with the mating song described by Dr. Overton (*Long Island Frogs and Toads*, Brooklyn Inst. Museum Science Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 3), I am unable to say. It would usually sing or squawk when tickled on the throat or breast.

While in captivity it was fed mainly upon earthworms. It also ate a gresshopper and a cricket or two. It is remarkable how it would always close its eyes when swallowing, and this seemed to be an important and necessary part of the act. When open, the eyes bulge out prominently, but when closed they are drawn back until they do not bulge at all. When the eyes are thus retracted, the roof of the mouth is lowered and this doubtless helps to force food down the throat in swallowing.

This specimen dug in on October 13 and stayed in, so far as we could tell, until dug out by us on October 21. It dug in on October 21, and was not seen again until October 27, on which date it ate an earthworm.

On October 27, in order to make an experiment upon its hibernation, it was placed out-of-doors, but unfortunately it escaped the first night and was not seen again.

Since I am not a herpetologist it may be well to state that I showed this specimen to Miss Mary C. Dickerson, W. DeWitt Miller, and J. T. Nichols, naturalists of the American Museum. So there can be no doubt as to the identification. Among other things the fact that the lenticular pupil of the eye is vertical instead of horizontal, as in our common toads, was noted.

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